

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT BF
SUBJ: ELECTION - GUARDIAN EDITORIAL "THE SPELL IS BROKEN"

REF: NASSAU 0823

EMBASSY SUBMITS IN ITS ENTIRETY EDITORIAL APPEARING IN NASSAU GUARDIAN ON MORNING OF JUNE 18TH. THIS IS IN OUR OPINION AN INCISIVE AND BALANCED PIECE THE VIEWS OF WHICH WE SHARE AND THAT IT ACCURATELY REFLECTS STATE OF ELECTION AT END OF FIRST WEEK.

"THE EVENTS OF MONDAY NIGHT, JUNE 13, APPEAR TO HAVE MORE THAN PASSING SIGNIFICANCE IN TERMS OF THE GENERAL ELECTION OF JULY 19. FOR, HAVING DISPLAYED A DEGREE OF MASTERFUL ASSURANCE IN HAVING THE DETAILS OF THE DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT AND THE PROCLAMATION OF THE DATE OF THE GENERAL ELECTION ATTENDED TO WHILE HE WAS THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY IN LONDON, THE SHOWMANSHIP OF THE PRIME MINISTER APPEARED TO BEGIN TO SLIP DURING HIS PRESS CONFERENCE AT NASSAU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT."

"THIS PRESS CONFERENCE NO DOUBT WAS INTENDED TO HIGHLIGHT HIS WELL ANNOUNCED RETURN TO NASSAU AFTER HAVING CUT SHORT HIS STAY AT THE COMMONWEALTH PRIME MINISTER'S CONFERENCE SO THAT HE COULD OFFICIALLY LAUNCH THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN OF

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THE PROGRESSIVE LIBERAL PARTY. AS IT TURNED OUT, THE PRESS CONFERENCE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN LESS THAN A HIGHLIGHT. THE PRIME MINISTER'S RETURN TO THE SOUTHERN RECREATION GROUND, FORMERLY AN IMPORTANT PLACE IN PLP LORE, XAPPARENTLY ALSO WAS INTENDED TO BE SPECTACULAR. AGAIN, IT WAS LESS THAN TRIUMPHAL. THE PRIME MINISTER HAD A PREARRANGED POLITICAL FORUM FROM WHICH TO ADDRESS THE NATION, AS ADVERTISED.

AND CERTAINLY, JUDGING FROM THE TELEGRAM WHICH THE LEADER OF THE BAHAMIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY CLAIMS TO HAVE SENT THE PRIME MINISTER IN LONDON, THERE WAS A LIVELY CHALLENGE WHICH SEEMED TO PROVIDE MORE THAN ENOUGH SUBJECTS FOR AN EVENING'S DISCUSSION BY THE PRIME MINISTER. IT WAS ASSUMED, QUITE APART FROM THE CHALLENGE OF THE TELEGRAM, THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE ADDRESSING HIMSELF TO THE NATION'S BUSINESS."

"BUT, IN FACT, THE PRIME MINISTER MADE USE OF THE AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE LARGELY TO DEAL WITH THE COMMONWEALTH PRIME MINISTER'S CONFERENCE - A MATTER WHICH, IN THE CONTEXT OF CURRENT BAHAMIAN POLITICAL AFFAIRS, IS OF MINIMAL INTEREST. AND WHAT WAS TO FOLLOW AT THE SOUTHERN RECREATION GROUND WAS FORESHADOWED BY THE RADIO BAHAMAS NEWSMEN WHO WAS IN LONDON WITH THE PRIME MINISTER. THE NEWSMEN INDICATED, DURING RADIO BAHAMAS' COVERAGE OF THE WELCOMING MOTORCADE FOR THE PRIME MINISTER, THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WAS UNSURE OF WHAT HE WAS GOING TO DISCUSS ON HIS RETURN TO THE BAHAMAS* THIS WAS BORNE OUT BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S PERFORMANCE AT THE SOUTHERN RECREATION GROUND WHEN HE FAILED TO DEAL MEANINGFULLY WITH THE ISSUES WHICH ARE CAUSING CONCERN IN THE BAHAMAS TODAY: ISSUES SUCH AS CORRUPTION - ESPECIALLY SINCE 1972 - UNEMPLOYMENT, THE DESPRESSED ECONOMY AND INCOME TAX."

"THE ESTIMATED AUDIENCE OF FOUR TO FIVE THOUSAND, WHICH APPARENTLY WAS A MIX OF PLP, FNM, AND BDP AND OTHERS AT THE RALLY, MUST HAVE WONDERED WHETHER OR NOT IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WASN'T AN ACT OF DESPERATION THAT CAUSED THE PRIME MINISTER TO AGAIN RESURRECT THAT MOST SQUALID OF THE SORDID EVENTS WHICH TOOK PLACE DURING THE VIOLENT GENERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGNING OF 1972 - THE MURDER OF RAYMOND BARRY MAJOR."

"THINKING PEOPLE MUST ASK IN ALL EARNESTNESS IF THIS WAS THE BEST THAT THE PRIME MINISTER COULD OFFER WHEN THEY HAD BEEN ASKED TO COME OUT TO HEAR THE PRIME MINISTER DEAL WITH ISSUES AFFECTING THE COUNTRY. THIS WAS WHAT THEY HAD BEEN LED TO BELIEVE BY THE NATIONAL RADIO STATION; BUT THEY MUST HAVE BEEN BADLY DISAPPOINTED."
TAYLOR

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